

Colorado Rangers Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

Colorado Law Enforcement Shared Reserve (“CLER”)

10:00 AM, Friday, 12 December 2025

CLER Headquarters

330 Park Avenue

Ft. Lupton, CO 80621

Attendance: Board of Governors: Chairman Lambert, Senator Cooke, Chief Fryar, Chief Hasler and Chief Abramson were in attendance via teleconference. Deputy Chief Robert Pabst was in attendance in person at 330 Park Avenue and coordinating the teleconference.

Attendance CLER Command and Support Staff: Deputy Chief Robert Pabst, Operations Chief Nick Voth, Captain Stephen Rumnock, Captain John Snider, and Emergency Management and Communications Officer Lieutenant Chad Clifford (also Colorado State Representative for District 37), Administrative Section Captain Aaron Ruffalo, CLER Controller Ranger Norm Townley, CPA, and Board Secretary Ranger Carl Luppens attended via video teleconference. Sgt. Royce Powell was attending in person. No members of the public were present.

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum: At 10:00 Chairman Lambert called the meeting to order. Roll was called by Secretary Luppens; all five of the Governors were in attendance, therefore Chairman Lambert declared a quorum and the meeting began.

Approval of Minutes of 19 September 2025: Chief Hasler moved to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2025, CLER Board of Governors Meeting, as submitted, and Chief Abramson seconded the motion to approve. Without revision or objection, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Welcome & Meeting Overview: Chairman Lambert invited Chief Abramson to provide his report.

Chief's Report:

Chief Abramson explained that the Rangers were concluding the busiest year that it ever had.

He said that it is astounding the number of calls that Rangers have had this year assisting its agency partners, the number of shifts that Rangers worked, and at the end of the year, the vast number of new agencies they are supporting.

The Rangers have never experienced a year like 2026. The operational tempo was very high. Rangers were doing a huge volume of call-outs as well as instructing at its Academy 11. It is a significant operation for any agency to operate a police academy much less an agency of all reserves and volunteers, but the Rangers managed to do it all simultaneously.

Denver: An issue with Denver was their payments to the Rangers. Chief Abramson had a meeting with Denver's police department's senior leadership team, including the director of public safety. Assistant Chief Robinson, as well as Lieutenant Clifford, also attended. We explained that they were disproportionately draining resources from the Rangers. Effectively, Denver had paid the lowest hourly rate of any agency in the state by far.

Denver needs Ranger support tremendously. Denver has a significant resource limitation. The Ranger command staff ended up working out an arrangement where Denver would hire Rangers for shifts at Broncos Stadium working indirectly for the Stadium District or the Team, or event promoters paid at the same rate as all other officers, \$80 an hour. That goes to our agency, of course, rather than to our Rangers, but that will go a long way to helping pay some of the bills and making sure that Denver is not a resource drain for us.

Chief Hasler asked if there was any resistance from regular Denver officers losing overtime opportunities due to Ranger work at stadium events and parades.

Chief Abramson responded that this concern came up in conversations with the Denver PD Chief and their assistant chiefs. They said that their officers are getting a lot of hours, all the hours they can use. Ranger fill-in work is only taking up slots that agencies outside of Denver (including suburban fire departments) that had to be called in. Rangers are not taking a single shift away from any Denver police officers that needs or wants overtime.

Arvada Patrol: Assisting the Arvada Police Department was somewhat of an experiment for them to see if using the Rangers for regular weekend foot patrol work in problematic areas would be a practice they want to do in the long term. The experiment went extremely well from their vantage point. Chief Abramson asked Division Chief Voth to provide detailed commentary.

Operations Division Chief Voth explained that Arvada had an influx of "homeless" individuals, especially into their Old Towne retail area, because that is where one of the RTD stations is. As Denver became more forceful with enforcement, vagrants got on the light rail and headed west into Old Towne Arvada. The town ended up having a real problem in its Old Towne area. The vendors and the business owners were very unhappy with it and it kept spiraling down. Arvada PD opened up seven day a week overtime to their officers. They put aside approximately one hundred thousand dollars for overtime in Old Towne alone, but they could only fill a few shifts a week with their officers. So Arvada PD reached out to the Rangers. Rangers served from March until October, every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, two shifts daily with two Rangers

patrolling together. The public safety improvement was exceptional. If Arvada can afford it, it appears that they will want the Rangers back in 2026.

2025 Summary: Chief Abramson explained that the Denver stadium and the Arvada Old Towne activities were probably the most significant individual highlights of the year. But the real takeaway from 2026 is that the Rangers have never had demands on them like they had in 2026. And, you know, a lot of the demands in the past were for when they need surge police services or large commence parades, things of that nature. We are, we've moved way beyond that. Those are still a very core of the needs of the Rangers, but we really have moved a lot into regular patrol work. The Rangers made 19 felony arrests in 2026 as they worked in a much broader capacity in 2026, which was a very, very significant change.

2026 Budget: Administrative Division Captain Aaron Ruffalo explained that Ranger finances are good and getting better each year. We're projecting revenue of a quarter of a million dollars from our partner agencies, and that's being a bit conservative. We're going to see a slight increase in expenses next year. One of the reasons being we will run Academy 12. So we're going to incur some costs at this time. That will include things such as radio equipment, radios. We've got a bit of a transition that may happen next year, so we have to budget a little bit if we go that direction. Plus we're expecting a 7% to 8% increase. We're also going to replace the body cameras as their end of life. Overall, there's not that many other changes we're expecting in the budget for next year, but so far. Chairman Lambert commended Captain Ruffalo on all the hard work he did putting the budget together. That takes a lot of effort, so I think that put us in a good position.

Permanent Funding From Colorado Legislature: Chairman Lambert suggested that Chief Abramson and Lt. Clifford should consider if the time might be right to give a short pitch to the Colorado Legislature Joint Budget Committee seeking permanent funding from the State.

Service Fees: The Rangers have had a multi-tier service and fee structure. One of the options was an "emergency response only" standby service agreement, No agencies have elected that level. So the Rangers eliminated the alternative annual fee for that, but increased the hourly fee for these services to, \$85 an hour which may result in increased total revenue.

2026 Budget Approval: Chairman Lambert directed the board to consider the 2026 budget and the resolutions for the different agencies as drafted and circulated by Captain Ruffalo. Chief Abramson moved for the approval of the 2026 Budget and the accompanying resolutions as previously submitted which was seconded by Senator Cook. The resolution and the 2026 budget were approved unanimously by the Board.

Colorado Ranger Foundation: Chief Abramson announced that he has started the process of recruiting a team of very experienced individuals in government and in fundraising to assist in setting up a Colorado Ranger Foundation that will "piggyback" off of the 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable status that the Colorado Mounted Rangers already have. The effort is going to be headed by Ranger Lee Kemp, who is the former Chairman of the Regional Transportation District. This is another pathway besides grants, besides any direct government service fees, to increase public safety in Colorado. Lee Kemp and Josh Hanfling are already working to setup the foundation and begin fund raising.

Chairman Lambert suggested that Lieutenant Clifford might consider special license plate proceeds going directly into a 501(c)(3) Ranger charitable foundation rather than going directly to the agency,

Lieutenant Clifford explained that the ability for the agency to accept gifts, grants and donations was adopted into the new law last year so an analysis of the advantages and complexities of charitable foundation versus a governmental agency donation should be undertaken.

Lee Kemp thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to work with the group and mentioned some stakeholders in the community, one of them being Phil Washington at Denver International Airport, and the another being the CEO of the Boulder Chamber of Commerce, who would like to be on the advisory board.

Operations Review: Deputy Chief Robert Pabst reported that, year to date, Rangers had provided a total of 16,233 duty hours in 2025. Over a decade this volunteer service will amount to well over \$20 million in savings to the taxpayers of Colorado. He explained that there had been a surge in demand for reserve law enforcement services and that many individual Rangers had exceeded their required duty hours significantly and that both the individual Rangers and the agency had "leveled up" in operational capabilities and availability.

Administrative Section & Financial Update: Chairman Lambert invited Ranger Norm Townley, the Ranger's Controller and CPA, to give the financial report. Ranger Townley reported that the Rangers had \$329,533 in revenue and \$ 299,626 in expenses yielding net income of \$29,906 in 2025. CLER has approximately \$267,565 in the bank.

Captain Aaron Ruffalo explained some of the insurance issues. Workers Compensation premiums increased from around \$3,000 to \$4,000. There are indications that the annual liability insurance premium might increase by as much as 48% to \$172,000 but Lt. Clifford said that the new legislation may reduce the increase since the Ranger's operating partners now have to take responsibility for Ranger actions, meaning that the liability insurance providers are getting premiums from both the partner agency and CLER for the same risk, which may reduce CLER premiums.

Open Discussion: Chairman Lambert invited additional comments or discussion; there was none.

Public Comments: No members of the public were in attendance so there were no public comments or questions.

Schedule Next Meeting: Chairman Lambert then scheduled the next meeting, with unanimous agreement, for Friday May 22nd at 10:00 AM in Ft. Lupton with a video conference attendance option for Board of Governors members.

Closing Comments: Chairman Lambert expressed pride in the momentum of the Colorado Rangers and that, with lots of hard work and professional conduct, tremendous community service has been provided at critical times, and that an example has been set for other states.

Adjournment of Meeting: Chief Hasler moved to adjourn, Chief Fryar seconded the motion, and, without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 AM MST.